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5 MS. ERRETT: I just have life experience, no
6 experience scientifically. I have experience with the
7 government in general and how different people have
8 been treated and one experience is an employee that my
9 father had. He was a son of a man that worked at the
10 nuclear test site while they did above-ground testing.
11 His father -- he ended up with cancer -- died. His
12 mother at that point, I guess, had a difficult time
13 dealing with what had happened and there wasn't any
14 money forthcoming from the government and they didn't
15 have what they needed to survive, I guess, and he said
16 that she had put her house up and started gambling and
17 she lost the house.

18 This young man lived on the street when my
19 father employed him. I don't know if he's still alive
20 today. He was only, I'd say, 23 years old. And he was
21 still waiting for this determination where all these
22 families would be getting a certain allotment of money
23 and it was taking very many years. He was a young
24 child when it happened and he was a grown adult when I
25 last saw him and I don't know where he is today.

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1 My husband was in the 82nd Airborne and he,
2 close to the end of his service, jumped out of an
3 airplane with a radio. He was a sergeant. And his
4 chute got tangled up and wouldn't open. So he pulled
5 his reserve and his reserve got tangled up in the main
6 and went into a cigarette roll and he did what they
7 call streamered down to the ground.

8 And they didn't think he was alive when they
9 went to find him and they found that he was. Then they
10 didn't think that he would ever walk again. And he
11 remained in the hospital for quite sometime, not able
12 to move. And when he finally did move, he was pushing
13 his bed incoherently down to the elevator. He was
14 going home, I guess, is what he said. When they found
15 him, he had his reserve chute in his hand. They had to
16 cut it off.

17 He subsequently sued the government because
18 every single day of his life, he's in excruciating
19 agony and they sent him to several different doctors
20 and the last one they sent him to was a gynecologist to
21 check his back out and it was determined by the
22 government that he had scoliosis and this is not a

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23 disease that they allow you to go into the 82nd

24 Airborne with. You're either born with it or not --

25 scoliosis and severe arthritis. So any money

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1 forthcoming was not forthcoming. He was discharged and

2 that was that.

3 And the last experience I had was living on

4 Highway 372 and I was awakened by this rumble, rumble,

5 rumble. And it was quiet and rumble, rumble. The

6 whole house was shaking. Finally, I got up and went

7 out there. It was 3:00 in the morning. Here were

8 these black semi-trucks with these triple trailers

9 hauling concrete, what I realized was concrete. They

10 didn't have their headlights on. All they had was

11 their side running lights on.

12 I guess the government really doesn't have to

13 follow any certain types of rules. They can do pretty

14 much whatever they want. These were brand-new trucks.

15 There must have been -- I don't know how many trucks.

16 It was over 50.

17 I finally went back to bed and I cried that

18 night knowing that there was an accident at the nuclear

19 test site and they hadn't said anything to anybody.

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20 And my fears were confirmed. It was in 2000 that the
21 Department of Energy admitted that they had an accident
22 at the nuclear test site.

23 So the thing is that these -- the United
24 States government is not accountable to the United
25 States citizen. They don't have to tell us what's

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1 wrong or what's happened, if there has been an
2 accident. They don't have to tell us anything and they
3 do anything that they can to keep it quiet.

4 And when I saw the trucks going by, I didn't
5 dare say anything. I just made a mental note to stay
6 in my home and not go outside, at least for that day.
7 I think that this nuclear repository that they propose
8 to put at Yucca Mountain is based on political science,
9 not sound scientific data and I think --

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 And I think that, you know, we just don't
12 number as much as other states and our population is
13 small here and they're just going to stick it wherever
14 they can because they have to put it some place. And
15 I'm saddened by the fact that they haven't bothered to
16 look into other areas to see if any other site might be

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17 more safe to put this waste. Now, I lived in a town
18 that had a nuclear power plant. It was Enrico Fermi
19 and that didn't bother me. The people were benefiting
20 from the energy. It was a choice. But the fact is
21 here that we've not been given a choice.

22 MODERATOR BROWN: If you can wrap things up
23 in the next minute or so?

24 MS. ERRETT: Whether or not we want it, it
25 seems to be that this site will become a reality. I

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1 see no other site being studied, no other monies being
2 put anywhere else. They've spend an incredible amount
3 of money. And that's it.